

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217180

FOLLOWING TEL SENT SECSTATE FROM TEHRAN 17 OCTOBER REPEATED

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, IR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IRAN AIR PURCHASE OF BOEING 747SP

REF: TEHRAN 7193

1. ONE DETERMINANT IN IRAN AIR'S CHOICE OF 747SP WIDE-BODIED JET OVER COMPETITORS IS IMPORTANCE WHICH SHAH ATTACHED TO DESIRE THAT IRAN AIR'S WIDE-BODIED JETS BE SUITABLE FOR CONVERSION IF NECESSARY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. TO THIS END ARMISH MAAG AIR FORCE SECTION HAD BEEN ASKED BY GENERAL KHATAMI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IIAF, TO PREPARE COMPARISON STUDY OF VARIOUS WIDE-BODIED JETS TO INCLUDE CARGO WEIGHT, CARGO VOLUME, MAXIMUM LOAD RANGE, PALLET SIZE, CONTAINER SIZE AND SIZE OF DOORS. STUDY CONCLUDED THAT THE MILITARY 463L CARGO HANDLING SYSTEM IS COMPATIBLE WITH ALL AMERICAN-MANUFACTURED WIDE-BODIED JETS BUT NOT WITH THE A300B. STUDY ALSO POINTED OUT LIMITATIONS OF WIDE-BODIED CIVILIAN JETS, WHICH BECAUSE OF SIZE OF DOOR, REQUIRES REMOVAL OF ROTOR BLADES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HELICOPTERS. COPY OF M.G. DRUEN'S MEMO TO GEN KHATAMI OF SEPT 19 PREVIOUSLY POUCHED NEA/IRN.
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2. REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN AIRPLANE MANUFACTURERS
ARE AWARE THAT MILITARY CONSIDERATION WAS A MAJOR FACTOR AND
MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT AT
LAST MINUTE HIS FIRM WAS READY TO SUGGEST SIGNIFICANT
STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN DC-10 IN EFFORT TO WIN APPROVAL.

3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT IN ADDITION TO IRAN AIR'S
INTENTION TO PURCHASE TWO 747SP'S AND ONE OPTION, IIAF MAY ALSO
PURCHASE THE 747SP. WILL MONITOR AND REPORT.
HELMS UNQTE
KISSINGER

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